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November 24, 2003

The Honorable Sam Brownback
303 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20010

Dear Senator Brownback:

I am writing to convey BellSouth Corporation's strong support for S. 1621, the "Consumers, Schools and Libraries Digital Rights Management Awareness Act of 2003." This thoughtful legislation takes an important step towards clarifying the rights and responsibilities of key parties involved in the digital rights debate and provides a common sense approach to what often has been emotion-laden rhetoric.

Congress has been wrestling with this issue for almost ten years and throughout that debate, BellSouth has consistently supported efforts to inject fairness into the balance of obligations imposed on producers of digital media products, consumers who use them, and service providers. By requiring producers to obtain a valid subpoena or court order in a pending civil lawsuit before forcing service providers to take the irreversible step of providing personal subscriber information, you have achieved a balance in this debate that, heretofore, has seemed elusive. This basic requirement applies when conduct that triggers the subpoena results from activity that does not take place on a service provider's system or network. This approach will ensure that producers can enforce their rights, customer privacy will be protected and service providers will not be forced to disclose sensitive customer information without judicial oversight.

Because it advances important consumer protection, privacy and digital rights interests, BellSouth is pleased to convey its strong support for this legislation.

Sincerely,



Herschel L. Abbott